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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,276	01/20/2006	Patrick Gehlen	32860-000989/US	7963
30596	7590	04/24/2007	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O.BOX 8910 RESTON, VA 20195			GAMI, TEJAL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2121	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	04/24/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/565,276	GEHLEN ET AL.
	Examiner Tejal J. Gami	Art Unit 2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 January 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/13/2006, 01/20/2006
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-7, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moshier (U.S. Patent Number: 4,228,498).

As to dependent claim 1, Moshier discloses a coupling apparatus for data buses (Fig. 1) (see Abstract), comprising:

a first connecting device for a first data bus (see Col. 18, Lines 18-21);
a second connecting device for a second data bus, as additional to the first connecting device (see Col. 18, Lines 21-24);
a data processing device (e.g., processor computations..function modules), connected to the first and the second connecting device to allow data to be interchanged between the data buses (see Col. 13, Line 43 to Col. 14, Line 26; and Col. 16, Lines 40-48); and
a third connecting device, connected to the data processing device, for a third data bus, as additional to the first and second data buses, to allow data to be interchanged between the three data buses (see Col. 18, Lines 24-27; and Col. 18, Lines 32-38).

As to dependent claim 2, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling apparatus is configurable (e.g., connecting or configuring) (see Abstract).

As to dependent claim 3, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coupling apparatus is configurable in such a way that the data transfer between at least two of the data buses is controllable as a function of the semantics of the data to be transmitted (e.g., a control element is connected to each of the buses for directing the operation) (see Abstract).

As to dependent claim 6, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of input and output modules are connectable to the third data bus and are linkable to at least one of the first and the second data bus with the aid of the coupling apparatus (see Col. 18, Lines 24-38).

As to dependent claim 7, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a monitor with a configuration capability (e.g., monitored...if so selected) (see Col. 7, Lines 34-45).

As to dependent claim 13, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein input/output modules are connectable to the third data bus and are linkable to at least one of the first and the second data bus with the aid of the coupling apparatus (see Col. 18, Lines 24-38).

As to dependent claim 14, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a monitor with a configuration capability (e.g., monitored...if so selected) (see Col. 7, Lines 34-45).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-5 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moshier (U.S. Patent Number: 4,228,498) as applied to claims above, and further in view of Krivoshein (U.S. Patent Number: 6,449,715).

As to dependent claim 4, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, as noted above. Moshier clearly teaches the first data bus, but does not specify a Profibus. Krivoshein teaches a Profibus (see Krivoshein: Figure 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized a Profibus as taught by Krivoshein to the first data bus of Moshier to acquire the correct and necessary information pertaining to each of the different devices within a device network (see Krivoshein: Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 14, Line 23).

As to dependent claim 5, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, as noted above. Moshier clearly teaches the second data bus, but does not specify an AS-i bus. Krivoshein teaches an AS-Interface bus (see Krivoshein: Figure 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized an AS-Interface bus as taught by Krivoshein to

the second data bus of Moshier to acquire the correct and necessary information pertaining to each of the different devices within a device network (see Krivoshein: Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 14, Line 23).

As to dependent claim 8, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, as noted above. Moshier clearly teaches the first data bus, but does not specify a Profibus. Krivoshein teaches a Profibus (see Krivoshein: Figure 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized a Profibus as taught by Krivoshein to the first data bus of Moshier to acquire the correct and necessary information pertaining to each of the different devices within a device network (see Krivoshein: Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 14, Line 23).

As to dependent claim 9, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, as noted above. Moshier clearly teaches the second data bus, but does not specify an AS-i bus. Krivoshein teaches an AS-Interface bus (see Krivoshein: Figure 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized an AS-Interface bus as taught by Krivoshein to the second data bus of Moshier to acquire the correct and necessary information pertaining to each of the different devices within a device network (see Krivoshein: Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 14, Line 23).

As to dependent claim 10, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 3, as noted above. Moshier clearly teaches the first data bus, but does not specify a Profibus. Krivoshein teaches a Profibus (see Krivoshein: Figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized a Profibus as taught by Krivoshein to the first data bus of Moshier to acquire the correct and necessary information pertaining to each of the different devices within a device network (see Krivoshein: Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 14, Line 23).

As to dependent claim 11, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 3, as noted above. Moshier clearly teaches the second data bus, but does not specify an AS-i bus. Krivoshein teaches an AS-Interface bus (see Krivoshein: Figure 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized an AS-Interface bus as taught by Krivoshein to the second data bus of Moshier to acquire the correct and necessary information pertaining to each of the different devices within a device network (see Krivoshein: Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 14, Line 23).

As to dependent claim 12, Moshier teaches the coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 4, as noted above. Moshier clearly teaches the second data bus, but does not specify an AS-i bus. Krivoshein teaches an AS-Interface bus (see Krivoshein: Figure 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized an AS-Interface bus as taught by Krivoshein to the second data bus of Moshier to acquire the correct and necessary information pertaining to each of the different devices within a device network (see Krivoshein: Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 14, Line 23).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tejal J. Gami whose telephone number is (571) 270-1035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on (571) 272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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